

WIPP Quick Facts (As of 10-30-12)

10,941

Shipments received since opening
(10,333 CH and 608 RH)

84,267

Cubic meters of waste disposed
(83,964 CH and 303 RH)

163,284

Containers disposed in the
underground
(162,683 CH and 601 RH)

DOE exceeds 2012 TRU waste cleanup goal at Los Alamos National Laboratory

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Central Characterization Project (CCP) and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) exceeded a fiscal year 2012 goal of characterizing and shipping 800 cubic meters of transuranic (TRU) waste, fulfilling a commitment to the state of New Mexico.

The 800 cubic meters goal was exceeded by more than 100 cubic meters, with the vast majority of the TRU waste characterized as defense related TRU and permanently disposed at WIPP.

To accomplish this achievement, the WIPP CCP increased the amount of waste that was certified, ensuring it met all the requirements for disposal at WIPP. This resulted in the ability to increase shipments to WIPP to as many as 10 per week, which happened the last two weeks of September. In total, 916 cubic meters of TRU waste was removed from LANL above-ground inventory by September 30. The LANL-Carlsbad Office also provided additional operators to Los Alamos so the available waste could be shipped.

"This important achievement for both LANL and the Department of Energy (DOE) and contractor team demonstrates our commitment to the clean up of legacy TRU waste at Los Alamos," said DOE Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO), which has responsibility for WIPP and the National TRU Program, Manager Joe Franco. "The LANL Framework Agreement with New Mexico to remove the above-ground TRU waste currently stored at Area G at LANL by June of 2014 remains the highest priority."



Members of Congress visit WIPP

Several members of Congress have recently toured the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, learning more about our mission and the progress we've made in cleaning up the nation. Above, Illinois Congressman John Shimkus and New Mexico Congressman Steve Pearce listen



Nuclear Waste Partnership assumes responsibilities at WIPP

attentatively, as the Waste Hoist descends to America's only deep geologic repository. Shimkus is the chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Environment and the economy. Pearce represents New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District, in which WIPP is located.

Below, Arizona Congressman Ed Pastor with NWP President and Project Manager Farok Sharif during his visit to WIPP. Pastor serves on the House Appropriations Committee.



October 1 marked the start of a new chapter at WIPP. At the stroke of midnight, the management and operating contractor changed from URS Washington TRU Solutions to Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC (NWP). The contract, awarded by the Department of Energy in April, is a five-year contract with a five-year option. NWP is a URS-led partnership with Babcock & Wilcox Technical Services Group and AREVA Federal Services.

A kick-off event was recently held to celebrate safety and the transition to a new company for the first time since 2001. NWP President & Project Manager Farok Sharif congratulated everyone on the many accomplishments over the years.

"Without your hard work; your drive for safe, compliant operations; your "can do" attitude, we would not be here today celebrating," he told the crowd. "You deserve all the credit!"

CBFO Manager Joe Franco also addressed the employees who gathered.

"While WIPP's impressive performance has been recognized time and time again, it's because safety is never taken for granted by the team that WIPP is able to continue its exceptional safety culture," said Franco. "WIPP continues to excel in all areas - safety, security and operations."

Several other special guests also participated in the event, including State Senator Gay Kernan, State Representative Cathrynn Brown, Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway, U.S. Senator Tom Udall's representative Beverly Allen-Ananins and former Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division General Manager Joe Epstein.

The speakers all lauded the WIPP safety record and the project's accomplishments. Above, Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway reads a proclamation recognizing WTS and NWP as Sharif and Franco look on.



CBFO Manager Joe Franco



Supporting our military

In September, CBFO Manager Joe Franco flew aboard a New Mexico National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk based at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Santa Fe as part of an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) orientation initiative for Eddy County employers. The National ESGR seeks to develop and promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees.

"As a veteran and a former member of the U.S. Navy, I understand the nation's need for - and the important support provided by - the Guard and Reserve," Franco

said.

Franco also attended a N.M. ESGR recognition event for Eddy County employers and renewed a certificate of support for CBFO. In addition to other N.M. employers, Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC also has a signed certificate of support.

Larry Stern holds a plaque recognizing his contribution to WIPP transportation safety, which was presented by Carlsbad Field Office Institutional Affairs Manager Bill Mackie.



Stern honored for contribution to WIPP transportation safety

Transportation safety is a key element of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's national cleanup effort and a great contributor to that effort was recently honored. The U.S. Department of Energy's Carlsbad Field Office recognized Larry Stern for his years of service as the director of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance Level VI Program.

At the CVSA annual meeting in Portland, Maine, DOE Carlsbad Field Office Institutional Affairs Manager Bill Mackie presented Stern with a plaque and thanked him for his dedication and service.

"Many people contribute to the success of WIPP," said Mackie, "But occasionally you find someone who has gone above and beyond. Larry Stern is definitely one of the best."

His leadership with the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance Level VI program has made a great contribution to WIPP's transportation program. Since its first shipment on March 26, 1999, WIPP has made more than 10,900 shipments from sites without any major accidents or injuries and no radiation releases.

Stern is retiring from the CVSA after more than 20 years with the organization and some 42 years of experience in commercial vehicle safety. He previously served in other roles with the CVSA, including director of administration, acting executive directory, secretary and first vice president.

Stern was instrumental in working with the U.S. Department of Transportation on

adding brake adjustment limits to out of service criteria and inspection procedures, which led to the CVSA's North American Standard Inspection and Out of Service Criteria. He also headed the CVSA delegation to Toronto, where all Canadian provinces and territories joined the Alliance.

Prior to his work for the CVSA, Stern was director of safety/insurance for Smalley Transportation Company, in Tampa, Florida and motor carrier enforcement chief for the Transportation Division of the West Virginia Public Service Commission.

All WIPP shipments undergo a CVSA Level VI inspection prior to departure from a site en route to WIPP. The inspection is one of the most stringent inspections for any commercial vehicle on the highways. WIPP shipments are also subject to Level VI inspections upon entry to any state, as well as at any point along the route that a state wishes to conduct one.

WIPP employees among honorees for nuclear footprint reduction

U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu recently honored a team of federal and contractor employees, including those from the Department of Energy (DOE) Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) and Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), for their work in reducing the nuclear footprint at Argonne National Laboratory, near Chicago, Ill.

The award was presented at the Oct. 4 DOE 35th Anniversary Celebration and Secretarial Honor Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C. The Honor Awards are the Department's highest form of non-monetary employee recognition.

Honorees from CBFO, which provides oversight for WIPP and the National Transuranic (TRU) Program (NTP), are NTP Director J.R. Stroble and NTP Members Tom Morgan, Marcus Pinzel and Andy Walker. Contractor employees representing Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC, the WIPP management and operating contractor, and its sub-contractors, included Kevin Peters, Irene Quintana, Frank Root and Michael Sensibaugh. Also recognized was Wade Weyerman from Los Alamos National Laboratory – Carlsbad Operations.

"It's great that WIPP Team members were among those recognized by this top award from the Department's Secretary," said CBFO Manager Joe Franco. "National cleanup is at the core of what we do here at WIPP, and I'm pleased that they were cited for their contributions to the nuclear



WIPP environmental initiatives earn DOE recognition

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently recognized four initiatives at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) and more than 20 people for improvements in energy, water and fleet efficiency while reducing pollution and waste across the DOE complex.

"We're very pleased by the Department's Sustainability Awards," said Carlsbad Field Office, which has responsibility for WIPP and the National Transuranic (TRU) Program, Manager Joe Franco. "They recognize our commitment to innovation and using our resources wisely. I thank the teams and people who are very deserving of these honors."

The first award was for asphalt recycling during the reconstruction of WIPP's South Access Road. The WIPP management and operating contractor Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC's heritage company, Washington TRU Solutions LLC, chose to recycle the existing pavement for resurfacing of the road. The result was the reuse of 78,000 tons of asphalt.

Another award was for the development of the "Green Catalogue." WIPP team members performed an analysis of WIPP's current green procurement program to

waste footprint reduction at Argonne.”

The team completed what was a three-year initiative to implement Argonne’s Nuclear Footprint Reduction and Deactivation Plan. This resulted in significant risk reduction, enhanced compliance and operational cost savings. Among the highlights were: the approval and implementation of nuclear safety documents for seven nuclear facilities; four nuclear facilities were de-inventoried to less than Hazard Category 3 (radiological) status; and a dramatic reduction in nuclear inventory was accomplished. To date, WIPP has received 150 shipments of defense-related transuranic waste from Argonne.

create the catalogue. This provided an easy-to-use single source for finding sustainable office supply products from any of the office supply vendors used at a federal facility.

A third award was for WIPP’s improvement of the procurement card and purchase requisition programs. They were designed to ensure sustainable purchasing requirements continue to be met while increasing the number of sustainable products used at WIPP in the future.

Also recognized were WIPP’s initiatives to enhance metals recycling, which increased from 28 metric tons in fiscal year (FY) 2010 to 103 metric tons in FY 2012.

The team of current and former CBFO, URS, WIPP and sub-contractors’ employees honored included Bernie Rodriguez (posthumously), Danny Contreras (posthumously), Mel Balderrama, Bill Barnhart, Corey Burnett, Frank Bush, Hank Carey, Dona Cassingham, Ronnie Crockett, Shari Cullum, Kelli Egan, Dan Ferguson, Marty Gonzales, Debra Hicks, Lynn Johnson, Stewart Jones, Susan McCauslin, Judy McLemore, Helen Moore, Kendra Navarrete, Randy Pettigrew, Lonnie Riley, Jaren Singleton and Gene Stoudt. Also recognized was Owen Lofton from the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management Carlsbad Field Office.



WIPP security contractor receives DOE Voluntary Protection Program award

Security Walls, LLC, the security contractor for the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), recently received the DOE Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Legacy Star award.

The DOE-VPP legacy star award is the highest level of recognition possible in the VPP. To be eligible for this award, the recipient must achieve and maintain the DOE-VPP star of excellence award for four consecutive years. Security Walls, LLC is currently the only security contractor within the DOE complex to receive the award. Multiple criteria are used when evaluating a potential recipient, including accident/injury rates and employee/management involvement in the safety program.

“We’re very pleased by the Department’s recognition of WIPP’s security program with this prestigious award to Security Walls LLC,” said Joe Franco, Carlsbad Field Office, which is responsible for WIPP and the National Transuranic (TRU) Program, Manager. “Safety and security are of chief importance to our operations. Thanks to DOE for its commendation and to all our federal and contractor employees, who are most deserving of acknowledgement for the commitment to security and safety that they show daily.”

The DOE-VPP promotes safety and health excellence through cooperative efforts among labor, management and government at the DOE contractor sites. The Department initiated its VPP in January 1994 to promote improved safety and health performance through public recognition of outstanding programs. DOE-VPP also includes coverage of radiation protection/nuclear safety and emergency management because of the type and complexity of DOE facilities.

“Achieving the VPP Star is difficult for any organization, but to achieve the Legacy Star is something really extraordinary,” said Security Walls Protective Force Manager Richard De Los Santos. “This award is a tribute to the hard working men and women in the security program at WIPP. They are truly dedicated to providing a safe and secure work environment.”



The U.S. Department of Energy Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

To be added to the TRU TeamWorks update notification list or to submit comments or suggestions, please contact us at TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws.

